

GM Winnetu

Mon 1/30/2023 10:42 AM

Dear Mr. Adam Turner

Please accept this as a letter of support for the Southern Tier Project before you.

The Island's housing crisis continues to have a negative impact on our economy and infrastructure. In MVC's own recent housing need assessment concluded that the Island's socio-economic diversity is eroding at an alarming rate, as we see nearly daily as businesses close and people leave the island.

The developers, Island Housing Trust (IHT) and Affirmative Investments (AI) were selected by the Town of Oak Bluffs after replying to the town's Request for Proposals that clearly recognizes the significant need for attainable housing options.

As a seasonal employer in the lodging and restaurant industries, the critical housing shortage has a trickledown effect on our industry. Islanders are losing options for year round housing at an alarming rate which in turn puts tremendous pressure on seasonal housing for the critical workforce needed to power summer tourism on the Vineyard. The Southern Tier project attempts to directly tackle this critical need by providing affordable and community housing for year-round residents. While I understand some of the concerns raised, it is impossible to provide housing at scale that will 100% please everyone.

I support the IHT and AI team in their efforts to develop Southern Tier and provide the much-needed affordable housing to the Town of Oak Bluffs and Martha's Vineyard. In the MVC's language, the benefits to the island - its people, the economy and the community - of this many housing units far outweigh the detriments. Please approve this project as soon as possible. Thank you.

Regards,

Matthew V. Moore
General Manager

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